(c) if so, whether Government propose to take any strict measures to prevent such teachers from taking private tuitions; and

(d) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINSITER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) According to the information furnished by the Government of NCT of Delhi, the percentage of first generation learners as reported by them was based on estimation as experienced at the school level and was not based on authentic survey.

(b) There is no authentic data-base to substantiate this statement.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

NHRC Suggestion on Trafficking in Children

2278. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be plesased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that recently National Human Rights Commission in a workshop on Child Prostitution had suggested for stringent punishment, particularly for pimps, brothel keepers and mafia dons, and making the offence of trafficking in Children a cognizable and non-bailable offence; and

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI: (a) and (b) Meetings held on 1.5.96 and 25.7.96 of the National Human Rights Commission, the Department of Women and Child Development, the National Commssion for Women and representatives of UNICEF and certain NGO's had inter alia stressed upon strict enforcement of existing laws in orders to abolish Child Prostitution.

New farming policy to accelerate Agricultural growth

2279. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have critically reviewed the status of development activities in rural areas to work out appropriate strategies for acceleration of growth in agriculture and related non-crop sector through a comprehensive policy measure/ package;

(b) if so, the details of the trends revealed, indicating areas of sluggish growth, tardy implementation of irrigation, weak agro-institutions and absence of sceintific agriculture and improved farming etc.; and

(c) the details of New Agricultural Policy with new policy initiatives/thrust areas, particularly for non-green/dry land farming?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (c) The major challenges faced by Indian Agriculture include: need to increase production and productivity of crops: imbalance in growth in eastern, hilly, rainfed and drought prone region; problem of under-employment and unemployment in rural areas; development of agro-processing industries; need for revitalization of cooperatives; focus in agricultural research system for rainfed and drought-prone areas; increasing utilization of irrigation potential and promotion of efficient water management and conservation systems and correcting the terms of trade to make them favourable to agriculture.

The draft Agriculture Policy which was discussed in the Parliament in August 1995, aims at accelerating alround development and economic viability of agriculture with a view to increasing agricultural production by favourable economic environment for farmers through a favourable investment, price and trade regime. Promotion of agro-processing industry, strengthening of agricultural research, development of rural infrastrcture, provision of inputs and creation of employment opportunities in rural areas are thrust areas of the policy.

In order to develop the rainfed areas of the country, conservation of rain water will be promoted by vegetative conservation measures through watershed management to bring about integrated development with the help of self regulating beneficiaries groups.